

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2960

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish and carry out a grant program to make grants to eligible institutions to plan and implement programs that provide comprehensive support services and resources designed to increase transfer and graduation rates at community colleges, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2017

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mrs. DAVIS of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish and carry out a grant program to make grants to eligible institutions to plan and implement programs that provide comprehensive support services and resources designed to increase transfer and graduation rates at community colleges, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## **1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Community College  
3 Student Success Act”.

## 4 SEC. 2. COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS GRANT

## **5 PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

6 From the amounts appropriated under section 10, the  
7 Secretary of Education shall establish and carry out the  
8 community college student success grant program to  
9 award grants under sections 3 and 4, on a competitive  
10 basis, to eligible institutions to plan and implement com-  
11 munity college student success programs designed to in-  
12 crease—

13                   (1) the rate at which eligible students graduate  
14                   from a program of study at such eligible institution  
15                   within 150 percent of the normal time for gradu-  
16                   ation; and

17 (2) transfer rates of eligible students.

18 SEC. 3. GRANTS TO PLAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT  
19 SUCCESS PROGRAMS.

20       (a) PLANNING GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From the  
21 amounts appropriated to carry out this section under sec-  
22 tion 10 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award plan-  
23 ning grants for such fiscal year, on a competitive basis,  
24 to eligible institutions to develop plans for community col-  
25 lege student success programs.

1       (b) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this section  
2 shall be for a 1-year period.

3       (c) PEER REVIEW PROCESS; PRIORITY.—In award-  
4 ing grants under this section for a fiscal year, the Sec-  
5 retary shall—

6           (1) carry out a peer review process that—

7              (A) requires that each application sub-  
8 mitted under subsection (d) be peer reviewed by  
9 a panel of readers composed of individuals se-  
10 lected by the Secretary, which shall include—

11              (i) not less than 50 percent of read-  
12 ers—

13              (I) who are not employees of the  
14 Federal Government; and

15              (II) who have relevant research  
16 or practical experience with respect to  
17 student support programs designed to  
18 increase graduation rates and transfer  
19 rates at public 2-year institutions of  
20 higher education; and

21              (ii) to the maximum extent prac-  
22 ticable, individuals who are members of  
23 groups underrepresented in higher edu-  
24 cation, including African Americans, His-  
25 panics, Native Americans, Alaska Natives,

1                   Asian Americans, and Native American  
2                   Pacific Islanders (including Native Hawaiians); and

4                   (B) ensures that no individual assigned  
5                   under subparagraph (A) to review an applica-  
6                   tion has any conflict of interest with regard to  
7                   that application that may make the individual  
8                   unable to impartially conduct such review; and  
9                   (2) give priority to eligible institutions that are  
10                  eligible to receive funding under title III or V of the  
11                  Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1051 et  
12                  seq.).

13                 (d) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution desiring a  
14                  grant under this section shall submit an application to the  
15                  Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing  
16                  such information as the Secretary may require, which shall  
17                  include—

18                 (1) the graduation rate and transfer rate for  
19                  the most recent academic year for which data are  
20                  available for eligible students and all students, re-  
21                  spectively;

22                 (2) an analysis of how implementing a commu-  
23                  nity college student success program may improve  
24                  the graduation rate or transfer rate for eligible stu-  
25                  dents; and

5 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that re-  
6 ceives a grant under this section shall use the grant to  
7 develop a plan to implement a community college student  
8 success program at the eligible institution.

9           (f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
10 on which an eligible institution receives a grant under this  
11 section, such eligible institution shall submit to the Sec-  
12 retary a report that includes—

(B) the number of such eligible students who will participate in such program, including how such eligible students will be identified, re-

1                   ferred, and selected, in cases where the interest  
2                   in the program is larger than the budget for the  
3                   program;

4                   (C) the demographics (including income,  
5                   race, and gender) of such eligible students;

6                   (D) based on the most recent academic  
7                   year for which data are available, disaggregated  
8                   by eligible students and all students—

9                         (i) graduation rates;

10                         (ii) transfer rates;

11                         (iii) retention rates;

12                         (iv) rates of completion of remedial  
13                         courses for students required to complete  
14                         such courses; and

15                         (v) average number of credits at-  
16                         tempted and average number of credits  
17                         earned;

18                   (E) an analysis of the financial needs of  
19                   the eligible students described in subparagraph  
20                   (B);

21                   (F) an analysis of how the eligible institu-  
22                   tion will collaborate across departments at the  
23                   institution and with external partners to imple-  
24                   ment a community college student success pro-  
25                   gram, including the detailed roles and respon-

1           sibilities of each potential external partner (in-  
2           cluding each investor, State or local government  
3           entity, or other stakeholder);

4                 (G) a description of how the eligible insti-  
5                 tution will effectively staff a community college  
6                 student success program; and

7                 (H) a timeline for the implementation of  
8                 such program;

9                 (2) a budgetary analysis that includes—

10                 (A) a description of how the eligible insti-  
11                 tution will—

12                         (i) provide non-Federal funds for such  
13                         program under subsection (d) of section 4;  
14                         and

15                         (ii) meet the requirement of sub-  
16                         section (b)(3) of such section; and

17                 (B) a description of how the eligible insti-  
18                 tution will continue to fund such program after  
19                 the end of the grant period for the grant  
20                 awarded to the institution under section 4;

21                 (3) a description of the data system the eligible  
22                 institution will use to track and evaluate the  
23                 progress of eligible students participating in such  
24                 program;

(5) such other information as the Secretary  
may require.

**6 SEC. 4. GRANTS TO IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
7 STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAMS.**

8       (a) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From  
9 the amounts appropriated to carry out this section under  
10 section 10 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award  
11 grants for such fiscal year, on a competitive basis, to eligi-  
12 ble institutions awarded a grant under section 3 to imple-  
13 ment community college student success programs.

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—

20 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTION.—To be eligible  
21 to receive a grant under this section, an eligible institution  
22 shall meet the following requirements:

23 (1) The eligible institution was awarded a grant  
24 under section 3 at least 1 year before such eligible

1 institution submits an application under subsection  
2 (e).

3 (2) The eligible institution submits an applica-  
4 tion under subsection (e).

5 (3) The eligible institution demonstrates, on the  
6 date of the application described in subsection (e),  
7 the availability of non-Federal funding for the  
8 matching funds required under subparagraphs (A),  
9 (B), and (C) of subsection (d)(1).

10 (c) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this section  
11 shall be for a 5-year period.

12 (d) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
14 graph (2), an eligible institution awarded a grant  
15 under this section shall contribute in cash from non-  
16 Federal sources, the following:

17 (A) For the second year of the grant pe-  
18 riod, an amount equal to 20 percent of the cost  
19 of carrying out the community college student  
20 success program at the institution for such  
21 year.

22 (B) For the third year of the grant period,  
23 an amount equal to 40 percent of the cost of  
24 carrying out such program for such year.

(C) For the fourth year of the grant period, an amount equal to 60 percent of the cost of carrying out such program for such year.

## 7 (2) EXCEPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), with respect to an exempt institution awarded a grant under this section, for each year of the grant period beginning with the second year through the fifth year, the Secretary shall not require the institution to make a cash contribution from non-Federal sources in an amount that is greater than the amount equal to 5 percent of the cost of carrying out the community college student success program at the institution for such year.

**14 (e) APPLICATION.—**

1 such paragraph shall include the following in such  
2 application:

3 (A) The number of applications such eligible  
4 institution has submitted under paragraph  
5 (1) and the dates on which such applications  
6 were submitted.

7 (B) A description of the changes the eligible  
8 institution has made since the most recent  
9 application submitted under paragraph (1) to  
10 improve the plan to implement a community  
11 college student success program at such eligible  
12 institution.

13 (3) REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after receiving an application under this subsection, the Secretary shall approve or deny such application.

16 (f) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that receives a grant under this section shall use the  
17 grant funds to—

19 (1) implement a community college student success program;

21 (2) regularly review—

22 (A) data to monitor the academic progress  
23 of eligible students participating in such program; and

(B) the meeting and program participation requirements described in section 9(1); and

7       (g) PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible insti-  
8 tution that receives a grant under this section may use  
9 the grant to—

(4) establish or expand tutoring services for such students; and

24                         (5) provide financial support for eligible stu-  
25                         dents participating in such program to enroll in

1 courses offered during enrollment periods that are  
2 outside the fall and spring semesters (or equivalent  
3 terms).

4 (h) REPORTS.—An eligible institution that receives a  
5 grant under this section shall—

6                 (1) not less than once for each year of the  
7 grant period, submit to the Secretary an annual per-  
8 formance report for such year of the grant period,  
9 and when data is available, compares such year with  
10 the each of the 2 years preceding the date on which  
11 the grant was awarded—

12                 (A) the demographics of the eligible stu-  
13 dents participating in the community college  
14 student success program;

15                 (B) the average number of credits at-  
16 tempted and average number of credits earned,  
17 rate of retention, rate of degree completion, and  
18 transfer rates of such eligible students;

19                 (C) the graduation rate of such eligible  
20 students within—

21                     (i) 100 percent of the normal time for  
22 graduation;

23                     (ii) 150 percent of the normal time  
24 for graduation; and

(iii) 200 percent of the normal time

graduation;

(D) an analysis of the implementation and progress of such program based on the ambitious outcome goals described in the report submitted by the institution under section (f)(1)(A), including challenges to and changes made to such program;

(E) if according to the analysis under sub-

paragraph (D), the program is not on track to meet such ambitious outcome goals, a description of the plans to adjust the program to improve the performance of the program;

(F) the participation of such eligible students in tutoring, career services, and meetings with program advisors;

(G) for the report for the third year of the grant period, the plan to meet the non-Federal contribution requirement under subsection (d)(1)(D); and

(H) for the report for the fourth year of the grant period, a description of—

(i) the source of the funds to meet the Federal contribution requirement under subsection (d)(1)(D);

(ii) the plans to continue to fund such

program after the grant period ends; and

(iii) the plans to use this program as

a catalyst for institution-wide reform with

respect to graduation rates and transfer

rates for all students; and

(2) not later than 6 years after the date on

which the eligible institution received such grant,

9 submit a final report to the Secretary that includes

an analysis of—

(A) the factors that contributed to the suc-

cess or failure of the community college student

success program in meeting the ambitious out-

come goals described in the report subm

the institution under section 3(f)(1)(A);

#### (B) the challenges f

lement such program;

(C) information on how to improve such

program;

(D) whether the program has created an

institution-wide reform with respect to graduate

rates and transfer rates for all students, and if

so, how such reform was created; and

## 4 SEC. 5. EVALUATIONS.

5       (a) INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS.—Before finalizing  
6 which eligible institutions will receive grants under section  
7 4 for a fiscal year, the Secretary, acting through the Di-  
8 rector of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall enter  
9 into a contract with an independent evaluator—

10                   (1) to consult with the Secretary on which eligi-  
11                   ble institutions should receive the grants; and

(B) the average impact of community college student success programs on graduation rates and transfer rates for eligible students;

1 (C) the variation in program impacts  
2 across eligible institutions with respect to such  
3 rates; and

9           (b) RESULTS OF EVALUATIONS.—The results of the  
10 evaluations under subsection (a) shall be made publicly  
11 available on the website of the Department of Education.

12       (c) FUNDING FOR EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary  
13 may reserve not more than 15 percent of the funds appro-  
14 priated under section 10 for a fiscal year to carry out this  
15 section for such fiscal year.

## 16 SEC. 6. OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

17       (a) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct out-  
18 reach activities to notify eligible institutions of the avail-  
19 ability of grants under this Act.

20       (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall  
21 provide technical assistance—

1                         (2) to eligible institutions awarded grants under  
2                         this Act, including assistance with—

3                             (A) establishing ambitious outcome goals  
4                         described in section 3(f)(1)(A); and  
5                             (B) the implementation of a community  
6                         college student success program.

7                         (c) **FUNDING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR**  
8 **EVALUATIONS.**—The Secretary may reserve not more  
9 than 7 percent of the funds appropriated under section  
10 10 for a fiscal year for technical assistance under this sec-  
11 tion for such fiscal year.

12 **SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

13                         Not later than 1 year after the date on which the  
14 Secretary receives the final evaluation results under sec-  
15 tion 5 for eligible institutions that were awarded grants  
16 under section 4 for the same fiscal year, the Secretary  
17 shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

18                             (1) the number of grants awarded under section  
19                         4 for such fiscal year, and the amount of such  
20                         grants;

21                             (2) the number of grants awarded under section  
22                         3 to eligible institutions that received or would have  
23                         been eligible for the grants described in paragraph  
24                         (1), and the amount of such grants; and

25                             (3) such final evaluation results.

1   **SEC. 8. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**

2       Funds awarded to an eligible institution under this  
3   Act shall be used only to supplement the amount of funds  
4   that would, in the absence of the Federal funds provided  
5   under this Act, be made available from non-Federal  
6   sources or other Federal sources to carry out the activities  
7   under this Act, and not to supplant such funds.

8   **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

9       In this Act:

10           (1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS  
11   PROGRAM.—The term “community college student  
12   success program” means a program carried out by  
13   an eligible institution under which the institution  
14   carries out the following:

15           (A) Provides eligible students participating  
16   in such program with an amount that covers  
17   the cost of tuition and fees that are not covered  
18   by any Federal, State, or institutional financial  
19   assistance received by the student.

20           (B) Requires eligible students participating  
21   in such program to—

22                  (i) be enrolled in the eligible institu-  
23   tion and carry a full-time academic work-  
24   load during each fall and spring semester  
25   (or equivalent terms) during which the stu-  
26   dent participates in such program;



(i) provides comprehensive academic and personal advising to the eligible student, including—

(I) the creation and implementation of an academic plan for the student to graduate from a program of study at the eligible institution within 150 percent of the normal time for graduation from such program;

(II) if an eligible student is referred to remedial courses, encouraging such student to complete such courses as quickly as possible; and

(III) assisting the eligible student with developing and achieving academic goals, including creating strong transfer pathways that demonstrate programmatic transfer for students interested in transferring to a 4-year institution of higher education;

(ii) after the eligible student participating in such program completes a semester (or equivalent term), creates for the eligible student a needs-based advising schedule that indicates, based on the eligible

1           student's academic performance, the fre-  
2           quency with which such eligible student  
3           shall be required to meet with a program  
4           advisor for each subsequent semester (or  
5           equivalent term) of program participation;

6                 (iii) has a caseload of not more than  
7                 150 eligible students;

8                 (iv) tracks the attendance of the eligi-  
9                 ble student at the meetings described in  
10                clauses (ii), (ii), and (iv) of subparagraph  
11                (B);

12                 (v) monitors the academic progress of  
13                 the eligible student; and

14                 (vi) provides each eligible student who  
15                 meets the requirements of subparagraph  
16                 (B), on at least a monthly basis, with fi-  
17                 nancial incentives, such as a transportation  
18                 pass or a gas card.

19                 (D) Provides free tutoring and career serv-  
20                 ices to eligible students participating in such  
21                 program, and may reserve places in select  
22                 courses for such eligible students in order to  
23                 create community within cohorts of eligible stu-  
24                 dents.

1                             (2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligible  
2                             institution” means a public 2-year institution of  
3                             higher education.

4                             (3) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term “eligible  
5                             student” means a student enrolled at an eligible in-  
6                             stitution who—

7                                 (A) on the date such eligible student would  
8                             begin participation in a community college stu-  
9                             dent success program at such eligible institu-  
10                             tion—

11                                 (i) is enrolled in a program of study  
12                             leading to an associate degree;

13                                 (ii) is enrolled at such institution and  
14                             carrying a full-time academic workload  
15                             during each fall and spring semester (or  
16                             equivalent terms) during which the student  
17                             participates in such program;

18                                 (iii) is—

19                                 (I) a first-time undergraduate  
20                             student; or

21                                 (II) a continuing or transfer stu-  
22                             dent with not more than 15 credits  
23                             and a minimum grade point average  
24                             of 2.0 (or its equivalent); and

1 (iv) is considered by the eligible insti-  
2 tution to need no more than two remedial  
3 courses;

11 (C) meets any other requirements estab-  
12 lished by the institution.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

1       the rate at which such students transfer to a 4-year  
2       institution of higher education.

3 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4       There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
5   this Act \$10,000,000,000 for fiscal years 2018 through  
6   2028, to be available until expended.

